to the four small isolated blocks in Bulsár, Chikhli and Mándvi ranges. And the leased forests of the Dángs continued to be worked on the old system, that of permitting contractors to remove a specified quantity of such description of timber as meets with their requirements.

134. Major forest produce throughout the year was chiefly exploited from occupied and waste lands in the Panch Maháls Division, as there was a pressing demand to clear such lands to make them available for cultivation. Thus the forests enjoyed almost a complete rest which they are so much in need of.

(*e*). Extraction and Transport of Major Forest Produce by Land and Water.

135. The standing crop offered for sale in the several compartments laid out for the year finding ready purchasers, departmental agency is now very seldom employed in the Thána District for extracting major forest produce. The Department, however, is compelled under the orders contained in Government Resolution No. 7107, dated 6th September 1892, to make arrangements for felling such of them as cannot be disposed of in this manner, in order to supply small branch-wood material for ash manure and fuel for domestic purposes to the surrounding population. In the year under report, although there were 59 unsold coupes, departmental fellings were confined to 4 only. This was decided upon with the consent of the Revenue authorities after it had been shown that the local demand for "ráb" could be easily met from lands outside forest limits, and that owing to the inaccessible situation and poor growth of the coupes the operations would result in a heavy loss to Government.

136. Both land and water carriage is used in this district, the greater portion of timber and fuel being carted from the coupes to the nearest water way or railway station. The extraction of major produce from the forests of the West Thána Division hardly offers any difficulty, as they are situated, as a rule, within easy reach of the one or the other. In the East Thána Division until communications between the foot of the ghâts and the main lines of road and rail, rúnning east and west, are improved, the removal of produce from the forests of Mokháda, Khardi and Murbád is impracticable, and, therefore, the coupes in these ranges are not sought after, and even when they are purchased, the contractors extract from them scarcely a fourth of the standing crop.

137. A scheme to facilitate the extraction of timber from the leased forests of the Dángs by a cheap means of communication as afforded by the Ambika River, which is estimated to cost Rs. 3,410 and which has been pronounced by the Executive Engineer, Surat, as "feasible" and "worth undertaking," is under consideration. The rocky obstacles to be met with in the channel are numerous, but the proposed outlay is small comparatively to the magnitude of the work, and, if sanctioned, a large saving will be effected in the cost of transport of timber from these outlying forests.

138. During the year under report, 2,350 bamboos were safely floated down as an experiment from Waghái to the Wághrech sale depôt on the sea-coast, a distance of 60 miles, out of a total of 2,950. The 600 which did not reach their destination were washed away to the sea owing to a heavy flood having suddenly overtaken them.

139. The forests of the Panch Maháls have only had hitherto to supply the very limited demand of the principal towns of the district; but when the Godhra-Rutlam Railway extension is completed, other markets, chiefly in the Ahmedabad and Kaira Collectorates, will be opened out to them.

(*f*). Exploitation of Minor Forest Produce.

(*1*). *Extraction of Fodder.*

140. The grass from the fodder reserves and other closures was not extracted by departmental agency anywhere in this Circle. It was, as usual, put up for sale by tender or auction.

141. In the East Thána Division, the outside demand being small owing to the distance of the markets from the places of production and a clause having been recently inserted in the sale terms requiring that purchasers were not to interfere with the villagers if they wished to exercise the free privilege of removing grass for their own consumption, no sales were effected during the year.